



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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May 9, 2001

Paul Seligman, M.D., MPH
Deputy Assistant Secretary
For Health Studies
U.S. Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Dear Dr. Seligman:

Following your letter of April 30, 2001, I informed representatives of the 4 atolls and the Nuclear Claims Tribunal that you would be willing to convene the annual Department of Energy (DOE) – Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) meeting on June 13-14, 2001 in Washington, D.C. In response to your letter, the atoll and Tribunal participants have indicated that although the dates in June are satisfactory to them, the RMI participants feel strongly that the meeting should be held in Honolulu.

The RMI participants have strong reasons for wanting to shift the meeting from Washington, DC. to Honolulu. First of all, many of the participants purchased non-refundable airplane tickets to Hawaii for the original meeting we scheduled for May 2-3, 2001. I understand that you were forced to cancel the May 2-3 meeting in order to testify before Congress, but the fact remains that many people spent a great deal of money for a meeting that never took place. Purchasing tickets to D.C. after purchasing unused tickets to Honolulu results in an enormous financial burden on the RMI participants. Furthermore, RMI participants would have to travel two days to Washington, D.C. and two days back to Majuro. Honolulu is much more convenient for the great majority of participants to the annual meeting. Because of the financial burden and the inconvenience of traveling to Washington, D.C. for most of the meeting's participants, I am writing to request that the DOE – RMI meeting be moved to Honolulu.

In addition to moving the venue for the meeting, I am also writing to request confirmation from you that DOE's consultants from PHRI and LLNL will attend the meetings. From an RMI perspective, there is no use in having so many people travel thousands of miles if they cannot meet with the contractors.

I would appreciate a response from you as soon as possible so that participants can make travel plans in advance of the meeting.

Regards,

Banny deBrum
Ambassador

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Banny deBrum", is written over the typed name and title.

Cc: **The Honorable Michael Senko, U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands**
 The Honorable Alvin T. Jacklick, Minister of Foreign Affairs
 The Honorable Gerald Zackios, Minister in Assistance to the President
 The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Energy Committee
 The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Ranking Member, Senate Energy Committee
 The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, Senate Energy Committee
 The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Senate Appropriations Committee
 The Honorable James V. Hansen, Chairman, House Resources Committee
 The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II, Ranking Member, House Resources Committee
 The Honorable Don Young, House Resources Committee
 The Honorable George Miller, House Resources Committee
 The Honorable Robert Underwood, House Resources Committee
 The Honorable Eni Faleomavaega, House Resources Committee
 Allen Stayman, U.S. Department of State
 Terry Breese, U.S. Department of State
 Nik Pula, U.S. Department of the Interior
 Lt Col. Peter Ipsen, Department of Defense
 The Honorable Abacca Anjain-Maddison, Senator, Rongelap
 The Honorable James Matayoshi, Mayor, Rongelap
 The Honorable Hiroshi Yamamura, Senator, Uttik
 The Honorable Joe Saul, Mayor, Utrik
 The Honorable Tomaki Juda, Senator, Bikini
 The Honorable Eldon Note, Mayor, Bikini
 The Honorable Ishmael John, Senator, Enewetak
 The Honorable Neptali Peter, Mayor, Enewetak
 The Honorable Oscar deBrum, Nuclear Claims Tribunal